

What is claimed is:

1. A system for facilities management control, comprising:

a personality module, the personality module including at least one port for communicating with at least one field device, the personality module capable of communicating with a server;

5 wherein the personality module operates autonomously from the server.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein:

10 the personality module includes a local database of information required to perform facilities management functions.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein:

15 the personality module includes an associated processor and an associated local memory,

wherein the local memory houses a local database of information required to perform facilities management functions.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the personality module includes stored

20 information, the stored information including clearance level information, logic scripts, and cardholder information.

5. The system of claim 1, furthering including:

a server; and

a client;

wherein the personality module is coupled to the client and the

5 server, and

wherein the resources include an associated processor and an associated local memory, wherein the local memory houses a local database of information required to perform facilities management functions;

10 wherein at least some event and alarm information is gathered at the personality module;

wherein when the server is available, the personality module communicates the event and alarm information to the server;

15 wherein when the server is unavailable, the personality module communicates the event and alarm information to the client.

6. A system for facilities management, including:

a server;

a client coupled with the server;

20 a database coupled with the server; and

a personality module coupled with the server;

wherein the personality module includes at least one port for communicating with at least one field device;

wherein the personality module includes resources for operation autonomously from the server.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the resources include:

5           an associated processor,  
               an associated memory,  
               facilities management information stored on the memory, and  
               an application stored on the memory and executed by the  
processor, the application receiving communications from the field device,  
10          accessing the facilities management information, and issuing commands  
               to the field device.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the facilities management information  
includes clearance level information, logic scripts, and cardholder  
15          information.

9. A method of performing access control, comprising:

               receiving facilities management information from a server;  
               storing the facilities management information in a local database;  
20          receiving signals from a field device;  
               accessing the facilities management information;  
               sending the field device control signals based on the facilities  
management information.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the facilities management information includes clearance level information, logic scripts, and cardholder information.
- 5       11. The method of claim 9, further including:
  - sending event and alarm information to the server; if no acknowledgment is received from the server in a designated time period, sending the event and alarm information to a client.
- 10      12. A system for facilities management, including:
  - a personality module including:
    - an associated processor;
    - an associated memory;
    - all facilities management information associated with any field devices coupled to the personality module, the facilities management information stored on the memory, and
    - a personality module management application stored on the memory.
- 15      13. The system of claim 12, wherein the personality module further includes:
  - an operating system.
- 20